



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116066
Inspection date	11 October 2006
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and three children in a house in the London borough of Hounslow. The whole of the premises is used for childminding. An upstairs bedroom is available for sleeping purposes. There is a secure garden for outdoor play. The household has one cat. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and or disabilities and children with English as an additional language. The childminder is registered for a maximum of two children at any one time. She is currently caring for two children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well being is well promoted by the good standards of hygiene practiced in the home. For example, the childminder provides individual towels for children to dry their hands after washing. She uses personal utensils and regularly washes the toys and equipment that the children use.

The childminder's practice and procedures reduce the risk of cross infection within the home and the children. For example, children do not attend if they are ill; parents are informed of any illness in the setting. Children's health is assured in most aspects by clear record keeping and a safe working knowledge of first aid and emergency procedures. However, the childminder does not have written consent from parents for giving medication or seeking emergency medical treatment or advice if necessary, for all minded children.

Clear procedures are in place and help parents with treatments of illnesses. Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. Children are able to play in the local park and enjoy regular trips to toddler groups and one-o'clock clubs which helps them to develop good physical skills.

Children are provided with wholesome meals that are appealing to them and meet their dietary needs. The childminder has attended a healthy eating course and takes into account parents' wishes and provides healthy and nutritious meals and snacks to meet the individual needs of the children cared for. For example, children enjoy lunches such as vegetarian goulash, sardines on toast and tuna pasta. The childminder shares dietary information with parents. Children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day. Older children can access drinks from the beaker when they are thirsty. This promotes self help skills and develops their independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and settled in their surroundings as they are looked after in a warm, welcoming environment. They are able to explore and move around freely and safely because the childminder has taken steps to minimise potential hazards and risks within the home.

Children's interest in play is extended because the childminder has an appropriate range of suitable furniture, equipment and resources, which helps create a safe and stimulating environment. Toys and resources are set out attractively, they are well organised and stored at low levels to promote independent learning.

Babies are well protected when sleeping as the childminder is vigilant in monitoring and checking sleeping children. She has developed fire evacuation procedures, regular fire drills are recorded in sufficient details, which helps to keep children safe. Additionally she has developed comprehensive procedures for a lost or uncollected child to protect and safeguard children in her care.

Children are well protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. The childminder has the required documents and procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safe guarded and promoted. For example, she has well written child protection procedures in line with the local safeguarding children procedures which is shared with parents and positively displayed in the home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's house. They enjoy a warm and secure relationship with the childminder, which enables them to extend their learning and overall development in a supportive and caring environment.

Children have easy access to a good range of suitable toys and activities which promotes their learning and development. For example, on the day of inspection the children were happily playing with play dough, using various animal stencils and help to tidy up after the activity. The childminder promotes children's independence and makes tidying up an enjoyable process by encouraging the children to say good-bye to the play things as they put them away.

The children greatly benefit from the childminder updating her knowledge and skills, by attending a variety of training courses. For example, she has attended developing music with children, rhymes and singing and the powers of puppets, which is skilfully used in her childminding routine to the children's benefit and enjoyment. Children listen to background nursery rhymes as they play cheerfully with the childminder and happily join in action games.

A very interesting range of activities is freely available to them and they are clearly making good progress in all areas of their development. This makes them self-assured and full of self-esteem. Young children are developing good early mathematical skills as they recognise shapes, colours, size and position in number books. The childminder introduces counting concepts very well within the daily childminding routine.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for as the childminder knows them very well. They are happy and secure as their individual needs are well met. Detailed information provided by the parents is shared with the childminder about the child's individual routines, feeding, sleeping, likes and dislikes. As a result, children receive consistent care as there is a daily exchange of verbal information with the parents.

The children are clearly fond of the childminder and turn to her for comfort and play. The childminder is attentive and responsive, for example talking quietly to the child whilst playing and responding to the children's needs. As a result they are happy.

The childminder understands the importance of helping children to develop a positive identity and feel good about themselves and their family. A small selection of suitable resources reflecting differences in culture, gender and disabilities helps children to learn about differences and the

world they live in. Children enjoy regular trips to Heathrow gym, snakes and ladders and tea party at local toddlers park. This helps children learn about the local community whilst socialising with other children, therefore developing new skills.

Children with special needs are well cared for as the childminder continually considers her own skills and identifies further training needed to enhance her skills and experience in this area. For example, she has attended training on signing fun with baby. The techniques gained from the course helps her to support language development in babies and young children.

Children feel secure in the care of the childminder as she has clear boundaries which are shared with them and she helps them to begin to understand right from wrong. They develop their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts, for example when the child tries to match puzzle pieces, the childminder says "well done " the child smiles and whispers in the childminders ear. This encourages children to try new skills in a safe and supportive environment. Children are gently reminded to tidy away their toys which helps them learn how to take care of toys and prevent accidents.

The childminder has developed a satisfactory relationship with parents. Daily information that is both verbal and recorded is shared with parents meaning they are kept fully informed about their children's activities and progress. However, there is no complaints log in place which means parents are unaware of complaints made.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the time and attention the childminder is able to give them. This is due to the childminder's good organisational skills. Children are very happy and settled in the home. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the needs of young children. Well established but flexible routines ensure children know what they are doing each day which adds to their confidence and security.

The childminder is diligent in ensuring that all policies and procedures are in place and up to date. These are shared with parents on a regular basis to ensure they are kept informed about the service that is offered and that the children are well cared for. Additionally some key policies and procedures such as child protection, food and meals are positively displayed for parents benefit. As a result the children's overall welfare is promoted well and agreed with parents.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to gain a greater understanding on equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She has developed greater knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity practice within the childminding service for children's benefit.

She also agreed to extend on resources reflecting positive images of culture, gender and disability. A small selection of resources that promote positive images of diversity such as, books, dressing up, dolls, musical instruments and small world people is available for children. This helps them to learn about other cultures and develop a strong personal identity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- implement a complaints log for the recording of any complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards
- obtain written parental consents for the giving of medication and for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice if necessary

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk